

October 15, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte Notice: Terrestrial Use of the 2473-2495 MHz Band for Low-Power Mobile Broadband Networks - IB Docket No. 13-213*

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We recently marked the 10th Anniversary of Hurricane Katrina - the biggest natural disaster to hit this country in modern times. Having lived through the aftermath, and having had the privilege to help manage the response as the U.S. Army commander of Joint Task Force Katrina, I am writing to you today to ask that the FCC take the steps necessary to ensure that our nation's first responders have access to critical satellite communications services in the event of future similar manmade or natural disasters.

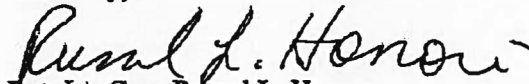
In the immediate aftermath of Katrina, the terrestrial communications infrastructure was devastated. And while local responders struggled to coordinate rescue and relief efforts in the absence of working communications, my response teams were able to communicate because we had satellite, not terrestrial, based systems. We could direct helicopters to go where we needed to go, we could communicate out to the outer boundaries of the city, and we could lead rescue teams in.

That experience made it clear to me that the foundational first response capability is communications - without it, it's impossible to coordinate and direct all of the other lifesaving first response capabilities. Because of my belief in the lifesaving capabilities of mobile satellite communications, I have continued to work to ensure that first responders can take advantage of the same level of communications innovation that other consumers take for granted. As part of this effort, I began partnering with Globalstar in early 2014 to let my peers know about their affordable satellite technologies and services. While satellite communications are normally thought to be too bulky, expensive, and difficult to use effectively, Globalstar has pioneered light, affordable, easy to use life-saving products that appeal not only to the traditional users of satellite services like government and first responders, but also to the consumer mass market as well. With the upcoming completion of their second generation ground upgrades, Globalstar's products and services will become even more appealing in size and price to first responders and consumers alike. I am helping them in the design of their new products to ensure that they are optimized for first responders. I carry a GSP-1700 Globalstar mobile satellite phone wherever I go and am providing recommendations to ensure the next generation of

the Sat-Fi hotspot is designed for use in situations like Katrina. Communications networks that used to take dozens of people to haul-in and set up are now available in one tiny box, dramatically expanding the use of satellite communications during a disaster that knocks out terrestrial services.

I understand that the FCC is currently considering a proceeding that would allow Globalstar to expand its business in a way that would bring new services to consumers, but also ensure the long-term success of Globalstar's critical satellite services. As a consumer of those services and a champion of Public Safety access to the most robust communications infrastructure possible, I urge you to conclude this proceeding as soon as possible and in a way that ensures a strong and innovative future of these critical services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Russel L. Honore". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ret. Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honore